

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

E/5561
22 July 1974

Original: ENGLISH

Fifty-seventh session
Agenda item 24.

Dual distribution

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE
TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES BY THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND
THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS

Report of the President of the Economic and Social Council

1. At its fifty-fifth session, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 1804 (LV) of 7 August 1973 on the item entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations". By paragraph 6 of that resolution, the Council requested its President to continue consultations on this matter with the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. 1/
2. At its 946th meeting, on 28 August 1973, the Special Committee adopted a resolution on the question, by paragraph 12 of which it requested its Chairman to continue his consultations on the item with the President of the Council. 2/
3. At its twenty-eighth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 3118 (XXVIII) of 12 December 1973, by paragraph 12 of which it requested the Economic and Social Council to continue to consider, in consultation with the Special Committee, appropriate measures for co-ordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations within the United Nations system in implementing the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly.
4. Accordingly, the President of the Council and the Chairman of the Special Committee held consultations on the question on 13 June 1974, and further consultations were held between the President of the Council and the Vice-Chairman of the Special Committee on 19 July 1974.

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-eighth Session, Supplement No.3 (A/9003, chap.XXVI, para.1044).

2/ Ibid., Supplement No.23 (A/9023/Rev.1, chap.VI, para.18).

5. The President of the Economic and Social Council informed the Chairman of the Special Committee that, in conformity with paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 3118 (XXVIII), the attention of the Council members had been drawn to the discussions of the Special Committee and to the relevant documentation. ^{3/} The President of the Council also informed the Chairman of the Special Committee that the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination had during the past year continued to give close attention to the question, ^{4/} and that, in the same context, further informal consultations between representatives of the organizations within the United Nations system and representatives of the General Secretariat of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) had taken place during April and July 1974, with a view to promoting closer co-operation in the implementation of the various resolutions on decolonization by the organizations concerned. The Chairman of the Special Committee informed the President of the Council that similarly, in pursuance of paragraph 5 of Council resolution 1804 (LV) of 7 August 1973, the Special Committee's attention had been drawn to that resolution as well as to the discussions leading thereto during the Council's fifty-fifth session. ^{5/} The Chairman of the Special Committee also informed the President of the Council that the Committee at the beginning of the current session had re-established its working group on the implementation of the Declaration by Specialized Agencies and related institutions to follow the implementation of General Assembly resolution 3118 (XXVIII) and other relevant United Nations resolutions. In the light of the positive results of the contacts established in 1973 with the executive heads of a number of agencies, the Special Committee through its working group had continued similar consultations during its current session. The Special Committee expected to consider the item during the second half of August 1974, when the report of its working group as well as an account of the Council's consideration of the related item, became available. The two presiding officers felt that the continued dialogue between the United Nations bodies concerned, the executive heads of the United Nations family of organizations and OAU had furthered the efforts of the international community to speed up the process of decolonization, including the extension of assistance to the peoples of colonial territories in Africa and their national liberation movements. Accordingly, they considered it desirable that such contacts should be maintained on a regular basis.

6. Having reviewed developments concerning the implementation of the above-mentioned United Nations resolutions since July 1973, the presiding officers noted that steady progress had been made with respect to the provision of assistance to refugees through the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in close co-operation with a number of organizations in the United Nations system, and with the OAU Bureau for the Placement and Education of African Refugees (BPEAR). It was noted in particular that in 1973 UNHCR projects which involved expenditure amounting to some \$1.6 million, had benefited over 580,000 refugees, by financing primary and post-primary education, promoting rural settlement and providing medical, educational and other related facilities. In the same context, the two presiding officers welcomed the continued efforts being made by the Secretary-General to strengthen the co-ordination of the various existing United Nations programmes of assistance beneficial to colonial peoples.

^{3/} Ibid., (A/9023/Rev.1, chap.VI); A/AC.109/PV.923 and Corr.1 and 2, PV.937 and Corr.1, PV.939 and Corr.1, PV.941 and Corr.1, PV.945 and PV.946.

^{4/} See E/5488

^{5/} E/AC.24/SR.506-510; E/SR.1876.

with projects being carried out under the auspices of UNHCR and BPEAR. The two presiding officers also noted the assurances, given by a number of agencies, that they would continue to co-operate with the Secretary-General, among other things, by making available their facilities to assist in the selection, placement and productive employment of beneficiaries of the above-mentioned United Nations programmes. In the opinion of the presiding officers, it was necessary to ensure the closest possible co-ordination of all these activities in order to achieve the maximum utilization of the limited available resources. For their part, the Governments of the countries of residence could facilitate the flow of assistance to refugees from the colonial territories by continuing to assign high priority to projects carried out in co-operation with the United Nations family of organizations, and also by according to refugees the legal status provided for under the relevant international instruments.

7. The presiding officers acknowledged that further efforts were being made by some of the agencies and organizations concerned to work out, in collaboration with OAU and in close co-operation with the Governments of a number of the African countries adjoining the colonial territories, including the Congo, Guinea, Senegal, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zaire and Zambia, concrete programmes of assistance to the peoples of these territories, including the populations in liberated areas and their national liberation movements, especially in the broad field of education and training. As examples of these efforts they noted that the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) had maintained progress in the provision of assistance to liberation movements and colonial peoples financed through its regular programme and UNDP as well as other extra-budgetary sources. The World Health Organization (WHO) was actively engaged in consultations with UNDP, UNICEF, and possible sources of voluntary support, to ensure early implementation of programmes of assistance in the health field for the populations helped by the national liberation movements. The ILO was developing a pilot project in southern Tanzania for training assistance to peoples of Mozambique in co-operation with FRELIMO, and a number of fellows sponsored by OAU were being trained at the International Centre for Advanced Technical and Vocational Training at Turin. FAO was continuing to work towards the establishment of an agricultural training component within the framework of the Mozambique Institute in Tanzania, which had been envisaged since September 1971. UNHCR had proposed to incorporate into its regular assistance programme aid to refugees through institutions linked with the national liberation movements.

8. The two presiding officers took note of the decision taken by the Governing Council of the UNDA at its seventeenth session, in response to paragraph 4(d) of General Assembly resolution 3118 (XXVIII), to waive counterpart obligations normally required of sponsoring Governments in respect of projects beneficial to colonial peoples. They welcomed the comprehensive decision adopted by the UNDP Governing Council at its eighteenth session, according to which assistance would be financed from the UNDP programme reserve and also from a trust fund to be established for the purpose. They noted with appreciation that the WFP had begun to implement, in accordance with a decision of its inter-Governmental Committee, an interim programme of assistance, including two food aid projects in Angola and Mozambique, valued at over three million dollars on an emergency or quasi emergency basis. They also noted that the UNICEF Executive Board had approved two projects involving assistance in the fields of health, sanitation, education and welfare, each totalling \$500,000 extending over several years. They were in agreement that, in the continuation of the consultations initiated between OAU and the World Bank, all practical means should be explored by the Bank to assist the Governments concerned in supporting projects that

would be beneficial to the peoples of the colonial territories. They commended the arrangements that had been made by one or two agencies for additional financing from extra-budgetary sources, including Funds-in-Trust, and expressed the hope that other organizations might consider making similar arrangements.

9. The two presiding officers agreed that the measures so far taken by some of the organizations within the United Nations system for the provision of assistance to the colonial peoples represented only a limited, although generally positive response to pertinent United Nations resolutions: it was to be borne in mind that the needs were great and that, of the 28 million people still living under colonial rule, there were nearly 18 million people in Southern Africa. They expressed the hope that the organizations concerned as well as all Governments would intensify their efforts to assist or continue to assist the colonial peoples, particularly those living in that part of the continent.

10. As regards the implementation of paragraph 7 of resolution 3118 (XXVIII) concerning the representation of the colonial territories in Africa by their national liberation movements, at relevant meetings of the specialized agencies, the two presiding officers noted with satisfaction that, in addition to the action taken by UNESCO and ILO, several agencies and organizations had adopted measures with a view to permitting representatives of the liberation movements concerned in such meetings; these included FAO, WHO, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO), the Universal Postal Union (UPU), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), UNDP and WFP. The President of the Council drew attention to the decisions of the Council adopted at its fifty-sixth session by which the Council had arranged for the participation of representatives of the national liberation movements in the work of the World Population Conference, to be held at Bucharest in August, and the World Food Conference, to be held at Rome in November 1974. The Chairman of the Special Committee mentioned that representatives of the national liberation movements had participated in the Diplomatic Conference on reaffirmation and development of international humanitarian law applicable in armed conflicts, held at Geneva in February/March 1974. The two presiding officers welcomed these developments and hoped that those organizations which had yet to comply fully with the relevant provisions of resolution 3118 (XXVIII) would proceed in consultation with OAU to enable the national liberation movements to participate in the relevant proceedings of conferences, meetings or seminars held under their auspices.

11. The Chairman of the Special Committee noted that several agencies had taken further steps to discontinue all support to and withhold financial, economic, technical and other assistance from the Governments of Portugal and South Africa and from the illegal racist minority régime in Southern Rhodesia until they renounced their policies of colonial and racial domination of the African peoples concerned. He also noted that several other agencies had in practice adopted the position of non-co-operation with these régimes in matters of assistance, although they had not taken formal decisions to sever relations or discontinue collaboration with them. The President of the Council noted that the delegation of the Government of Portugal to the recent UPU Congress had made a statement before the Congress in which were outlined the main guidelines of Portugal's new foreign policy including: (a) its profound desire for international co-operation with all countries without any distinction; (b) absolute respect for the principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; and (c) acceptance of

self-determination with all its consequences as a means of solving the colonial problem. The Chairman of the Special Committee observed that, while the situation in Portugal had continued to evolve, pressure should be exerted on the new Government to reverse completely the policies of the previous régime vis-à-vis the colonial territories under its domination. The President of the Council and the Chairman of the Special Committee noted that the new Government of Portugal had not yet officially indicated its acceptance of, inter alia, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. The Chairman of the Special Committee felt that the United Nations system of organizations should continue to be guided by the relevant provisions of resolution 3118 (XXVIII), in particular paragraph 6 thereof.

12. With reference to Council resolution 1740 (LIV) of 4 May 1973, in which the Council had requested its Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations to explore ways of engaging non-governmental organizations actively in the implementation of the Declaration, the Chairman of the Special Committee stated that, while several of the organizations in consultative status had continued to assist in the efforts of the United Nations in the field of decolonization, many of them had yet to extend their co-operation in that regard. As those agencies and organizations which had taken part in the International Conference of Experts for the Support of Victims of Colonialism and Apartheid in Southern Africa, held at Oslo in April 1973, were fully aware, several non-governmental organizations had long been making active contributions to the process of decolonization, by extending direct financial assistance to the national liberation movements and/or by disseminating information on decolonization. The two presiding officers were of the view that the Council might wish to consider reiterating its call on its Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations to intensify its efforts to enlist the support of all non-governmental organizations within its purview in the implementation of the Declaration.

13. Noting that the matters raised in the foregoing report would require continuous review by the Economic and Social Council and by the Special Committee, the two presiding officers agreed that, subject to any directives which the General Assembly might give at its twenty-ninth session and in conformity with such decisions as might be taken by the Council and the Special Committee, they should maintain close contact with each other on the question.